critical digest

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This Week

NY playhouses continue to be refurbished as new season starts. 54th St (Adelphi) has had the last 6 rows of seats removed from orchestra, and orchestra has been ramped for better sightliness, new seats and carpeting have been installed. The Lunt-Fontanne has added a smoking alley.

Plays

Handful of Fire closed after 5 performances... Make A Million moved opening date in NY from Oct 16 to Oct23, and switched directors from Ezra Stone to Jerome Chodorov ... Arthur Miller's untitled play which had been set for Dec 18 called off to spring '59... Night Circus set to open in NY first week in Dec... The Rivalry to be presented in Jan at Bijou... Dore Schary and Theatre Guild to produce Majority of One by Leonard Spigelgass in Mar... Ruth Rawson to direct Poker Game by George Panetta due in mid-Feb... Duel of Angels will be presented in spring by Playwrights... The Gang's All Here by Jerome Lawrence-Robert Lee to be presented by David Merrick-Leland Hayward, staged by George Roy Hill... Robert Montgomery to direct The General's Other Son by Andrew McCullough, presented by Burr-Nugent... Spirit is Willing musical version of "The Ghost Goes West" by Harry Kurnitz-Jose Ferrer to be presented by Jule Styne and Theatre 200... Come Live With Me a new musical by Howard Blankman-David Hughes to be presented by David Robbins.

Players

Akim Tamiroff to co-star with Claire Bloom-Rod Steiger in Rashomon, marking his first return to NY stage since 1931... Ian Keith to portray Junius Brutus Booth, sr in Edwin Booth... Salome Jens and Bernard Kates join Disenchanted... Cathleen Nesbitt left role in Man in Dog Suit, replaced by Kathleen Comegys. ... David Vaughan and James Valentine added to Epitaph for George Dillon .... Ralph Young, former singer with Les Brown's orchestra, signed for a lead role in Whoop-Up... Billie Burke and Eva Le Gallienne signed for Listen to the Mocking Bird, new mystery by Edward Chodorov to be presented in Jan by Playwrights Co... Lawrence Bolton, age 60, last seen in Comic Strip, died of heart attack.

Summer Playhouses

Framingham, Mass concludes season with Mr. Roberts to Oct 12.

Calendar

Ivanov- Renata 144 Bleecker 10/7. Daniel Hineck presents new translation of Chekhov play by Elisavata Fen, staged by William Ball ... Drink To Me Only -54th St. 10/8 George Ross-John Robert Lloyd present new comedy by Abram S. Ginnes-Ira Wallach, staged by George Abbott with Tom Poston, Paul Hartman... Deathwatch-Theatre East 241E 60- 10/9. Garen-Smith-Greene present Jean Genet play, staged by Leo Garen... Capt. Brassbound's Conversion- Grace Church 123 W 71 10/9. Sumner Kernan revival of G. B. Shaw play... Goldilocks- Lunt-Fontanne -10/11. Producers Theatre presents new musical by Jean- & Walter Kerr, Leroy Anderson with Don Ameche, Russell Nype, staged by Kerr.

World of Suzie Wong -Broadhurst 10/14. David Merrick-7 Arts Productions-present Paul Osborn dramatization of Richard Mason novel, staged by Josh Logan with France Nuyen, William Shatner... Theatre National Populaire--Broadway 10/14. Sol Hurok presents French repertory company for 3 week run... The Girls in 509-Belasco 10/15 -Alfred de Liagre, Jr. presents new Howard Teichmann comedy with Imogene Coca, Pegeen Wood, staged by Bretaigne Windust.

Critics

Bert McCord to resign from Herald Tribune after 18 years of filing the daily drama column, to retire to New England for free lance career... Oct 13 "Drama Desk" meeting guests include Josh Logan, David Merrick, Jule Styne, France Nuyen.

Special

ANTA has formed a new department of special projects and events to be headed by Bob Cahlman. A publication entitled "Spotlight" will specialize in technical reports for community theatres and will compile a Who's Who of regional theatre directors and technicians.

Other Broadways

2 Chicago producers are planning to import off Broadway successes and/or present revivals of same. Alan Carr and Richard Tourville have rented the Civic Theatre to present NY company of Garden District. A group headed by Arnold Maremont is seeking to convert a pavillion in Lincoln Park into an arena showcase for recent Off Broadway hits.

Off Broadway

The Golden Six moved opening from Oct 13 to Oct 25 because of extra rehearsal time needed by new cast member Paul Mann, who replaced William Swetland in leading role... Time of Cuckoo pushed debut forward to Oct 23... 3 shows closed this week-- Anatol, Egg and I, Jackknife... Deathwatch to present midnight performances Fris and Sats... Crucible to play 2 shows Suns, dropping Mon and Tues evenings.

Nell Burnside replaces Sybil White, Crucible... Avra Petrides has replaced Lelia Barry, Golden Six... Clarence Hoffman signed for Hamlet of Stepney Green ... George Ebeling, Sidney Kay, Paul Shyre, Rae Allen join Cock-a-Dooodle Dandy.

Foenix in Choir a new play by Frank Merlin to be presented at Rita Allen Theatre Oct 24, staged by author .... Ideal Husbands to be staged Oct 30 at an Off Broadway house by Clarence Derwent... Man and Superman to be presented Jan 20 by Hilary Lipsitz-Philip Minor... Triad an evening of 3 new one act musicals to be presented Nov 20 by Delta Company.

Theatre TV Notes

Mid-Summer to be presented Oct 8 on CBS TV US Steel Oct 8 with Barbara Bel Geddes... The Winslow Boy to be presented Nov 13 on CBS-TV Show of Month with Frederic March, Florence Eldridge. Laurence Olivier to be presented on CBS TV in early spring in "Moon and Sixpence."... NBC TV Kaleidoscope to be present filmed report on how a play is groomed for Broadway and a program on how an actor is trained for his career.

Theatre Film Notes

Diane Varsi and Bradford Dillman signed for film Compulsion... The Rat Trap to be filmed by William Perlberg with Keely Smith and Louis Prima.

Brussels Fair

Betty Bartley replaced Ann Sheridan in Time of Your Life.

Legal Dept.

NY stagehands granted 6% wage increase in contract with NY League of Producers.

DIGESTS OF CURRENT NYC THEATRE REVIEWS

A Touch of the Poet- Hayes 10/2. 7 pros, including 4 raves, filed on Producers Theatre production of Eugene O'Neill play starring Eric Portman, Helen Hayes, Kim Stanley, Betty Field, staged by Harold Clurman. All praised high level of acting and production, difference of opinion was on quality of script. Every department cheered by Atkinson, Times-actors, director, designer, author. If O'Neill could have seen the stunning performances it is possible that he might have been satisfied. Chapman, News, marked play as living O'Neill, not great O'Neill, but a play that makes rest of theatre pallid, cast is magnificent. Coleman, Mirror, rated it as one of author's best, magnificent theatre , a play to see again and again. McClain, Journal American, doubted if play was great because of the unsympathetic characters , but still it proves author is majestically alone in the American theatre. Milder views expressed by Herald Tribune, World Telegram & Sun, and Post reviewers. Whittaker, Herald Tribune, billed it as worthy O'Neill that gets rather long winded at times. He felt cast was topped by Portman, though Atkinson, Times, complained that actor was at times inarticulate. Aston, WTS, also found script at times garrulous, he thought Hayes best. Watts, Post, felt play could be cut a bit, though it remained as is a drama of enormous power, feeling, insight, compassion and sheer emotional impact, beautifully acted. Journal American audience poll voted 5 pros, 0 cons.

Handful of Fire- Beck 10/1- 10/4. 2 pros- Herald Tribune, News- and 5 cons- filed on N. Richard Nash new drama presented by David Susskind & Playwrights Company which closed after 5 performances. Roddy McDowall, James Daly, Joan Copeland headed cast directed by Robert Lewis. Acting drew praise from almost all, but negative voters felt script lacked enough interest. Whittaker, Herald Tribune, felt author and cast handled the legend of Mexicans in Southwest US with remarkable respect with McDowall giving close to a virtuoso performance. He also enjoyed acting by Kay Medford as well as Jo Mielziner's set. Chapman, News, thought play had beauty if audience had patience to wait. Entire script could stand tightening, critic suggested. Dissenters headed by Atkinson, Times, who found some good writing in the first act, but feared characters in rest of play falked in symbols. Coleman, Mirror, panned it as an arty bore on a set better suited to "Camino Real." A good idea repeated into insensibilty, added McClain, Journal American. A prolonged platitude, written and acted well, summed Aston, WTS. Fine production wasted on a dawdling, obvious script, concluded Watts, Post. Journal American audience poll voted 4 pros, 2 cons.

Lulu-4th St- 83 E 4 9/29 2 pro- Journal American, World Telegram & Sun- and 5 con- filed on David Ross' production of Wedekind play adapted by Stephen Spender and Frances Fawcett, starring Eva Gabor, Clarence Derwent, Harold Huber and staged by Ross. McClain, Journal American, okayed players for delightful performance of play in which current version substituted spice for arsenic. Aston, WTS, didn't think much of claptrap script, but felt Eva Gabor was so pretty it made little difference. and makes it seem like fun. Silly was term used most by majority of dissenters. Gabor neither versatile or vigorous enough as an actress to redeem it from sillness, panned Atkinson, Times. He also panned director for a lack of attitude. Chapman, News, concluded that the play is a mess. A fiasco that might do well with beer and pretzels, suggested Coleman, Mirror. Silly, dull and foolish play in which the audience laughed at, not with.

Nightcap-Showplace 136 W 4 . Jerry Herman's revue rated another okay from a NY drama critic. McClain, Journal American, enjoyed the bright and sprightly little revue with Estelle Parsons, Kenny Nelson, Rita Gardner, Charles Nelson Reilly. With the revue a forgotten form on Broadway, he found it pleasant to find this minuscule version downtown.

THEATRE BOOK COMMENTS

"Mask or Face" by Richael Redgrave (Heinemann $2.50) rated as an erudite but far from egghead book on the actor's craft by Rich, Variety. It provides an absorbing glimpse into what makes the serious actor tick and is written with grace and insight.

LONDON STAGE VIEWS

Whatever merits of Auntie Mame's London production it has done something important for the British theatre as a whole, states "Stage" editorial. It has made the Theatre big news in a national Press which normally confines such interest to paragraphs and old pictures. It has brought excitement and glamour to the Adelphi Theatre after a period of doldrums. It has caused controversy and let co-author Jerome Lawrence to launch an attack on London first night audiences. It has proved that large sections of the public are still theatre conscious, to such a point that they can be roused into rushing to book in advance and still can make a new production an event in their social lives. The answer lies hidden in that element of Magic at the heart of every theatrical enterprise which catches the imagination of the public.

OUT OF TOWN

Baltimore- Two for the See-Saw... Boston- Pleasure of His Company, Once More With Feeling, Patate... Chicago- Auntie Mame, My Fair Lady... Cincinatti-Romanoff and Juliet... Dallas- The Music Man... Detroit- Look Back in Anger, Can,-Can... Los Angeles- Edwin Booth... Philadelphia-Comes A Day, The Girls in 509, Make A Million... Pittsburgh- L'il Abner... San Francisco- Auntie Mame, Marriage Go Round... Washington- Man in the Dog Suit.

Pre-Broadway tour plans include ---Far Away The Train Birds Cry-Philadelphia-Nov 10... Whoop Up-Philadelphia Nov 10 ... Third Best Sport-Detroit- Oct 20.

O'NEILL IN SWEDEN

Hughie, a one act O'Neill play presented at Stockholm's Royal Dramatic Theatre in a twin-bill program with Emperor Jones , enjoyed by Cole, Herald Tribune for both its fine production and its dramatic content. Bengt Eklund in title role is startlingly true to American life and to the author's conception. O'Neill's popularity in Sweden explained by reporter by playwright's understanding of "livsloygn"--'life's lie.'"

Oct 6, 1958 THEATRE FACT CHART--CRITICAL DIGEST--139 E 47, NYC-EL 5-6894

This weekly chart of CRITICAL DIGEST presents up-to-date data on current business and critical reaction to current Broadway and Off Broadway shows.

Subscribers may phone, write or call in person for any other specific data and/or for details of LATE REVIEWS.

"C"- Critical- figures refer to percentage of PRO reviews filed byNYC daily reviewers. PRO means show was recommended for entertaining and/or stimulating evening, not if the critic predicted if show would be a commercial hit or not.

"B"-Business- figures refer to percentage of gross ticket sales last week. % B Figures refer to percentage of past week's attendance and indicates current availability of tickets. CAP figures refer to gross capacity of house in thousands of dollars. Figures that follow are gross estimates by Variety for past week and previous weeks' business, all figures in thousands of dollars. Thus 100% B- Cap $68--$68 $64, etc--means that the past week the show was a sell-out, the previous week the gross was $64,000, etc

BELLS ARE RINGING Shubert $7.50	230 W 44 CI 6-5990	80% C- Show 2 Con-WTS, Times-100% Judy 80% B- Cap $58--$51 $52 $51 $43 $53 $50
DARK TOP STAIRS Music Box $6.90	238 W 45 CI 6-4636	90% C- 1 Con-WTS-3 raves Inge's best play 65% B- Cap $33--$21 $23 $22 $21 $21 $21 $21
JAMAICA Imperial $8.35	256 W 45 CO 5-2412	40% C- Show 3 Pro-Times, J. Am, Post 65% B- Cap $63--$41 $42 $39 $38 $44 $38 $40
LOOK HOMEWARD Barrymore $6.90	243 W 47 CI 6-0390	100% C- new leads 2 Pro- 1 Con- Times 65% B- Cap $40--$23 $24 $24 $23 $25 $22 $22
MUSIC MAN Majestic $8.05	245 W 45 CI 6-0730	100% C- 6 pro raves show- H. Trib milder 100% B- Cap $68--$69 $69 $69 $69 $69 $69
MY FAIR LADY Hellinger $8.05	1655 Bway PL 7-7064	100% C- 7 raves play- 4 okay new leads 100% B- Cap $68--$69 $69 $69 $69 $69 $69
SAY DARLING ANTA $7.50	245 W 52 CI 6-6270	90% C- 1 Con- Times- 5 raves for show 80% B- Cap $50--$38 $39 $37 $30 $33 $31 $28
SUNRISE CAMPOBELLO Cort $6.90	138 W 48 CI 5-5289	100% C- 7 raves for R. Bellamy & play 95% B- Cap $38- $34 $37 $37 $37 $37 $37 $37
TOUCH OF POET Hayes $7.50	210 W 46 CI 6-6380	100% C- 4 raves plays & players.
TWO SEE SAW Booth $6.90	222 W 45 CI 6-5969	90% C-1 Con- WTS- 5 raves script, cast 95% B - Cap $31--$28 $31 $31 $27 $28 $30 $30
VISIT Morosco $6.90	217 W 45 CI 6-6230	80% C- 2 Con- Mirror, J. Am. 90% B- Cap $35--$30 $30 $29 $ 24 $26 $17

" LONDON CALENDAR "

Sept 30- Live Like Pigs- Royal Court
Oct 1- A Day in the Life Of- Savoy
Oct 7- Shadow of Heroes- Piccadilly
Oct 8- Julius Caesar- Old Vic
Nov 13- Hot Summer Night

" TV THEATRE PROGRAMS "

Oct 9- CBS- Time of Your Life on Playhouse 90 with Jackie Gleason
Oct 13- NBC- Johnny Belinda onHall of Fame with Julie Harris
Oct 16- CBS- Little Women musical by Richard Adler-Ronald Alexander
Oct 00-CES- Face of A Hero on Playhouse 90 prior to stage
Nov 13- CBS- Winslow Boy on Du Pont Show of Month with Frederic March
Nov 20- NBC - Kiss Me Kate on Hall of Fame with Alfred Drake
Nov 30- CBS- Wonderful Town with Rosalind Russell
Dec 9- CBS- Gift of Magi - musical by Richard Adler- Ronald Alexnder
-- '59 CBS- Hamlet on Du P nt show of Month with Old Vic Company

Mar 23- NBC- Green Pastures on Hall of Fame with William Warfield
Mar 29- NEC- Mary Ma r t in - 2 one woman shows-matinee for children
Apr 28- NBC- Al Wilderness on Hall of Fame.

" OFF BROADWAY "

BALD SOPRANO Sullivan $3.50	181 Sullivan OR 4-3838	2 Pro- H. Tribune, News 4 Con- Times, Post, J. Am, WTS
BLOOD WEDDING Actors Play $3.45	100-7th Av S. OR 5-1036	3 Pro- Times, Post, J. Am. 1 Con- WTS
BOY FRIEND Cherry Lane $4.60	31 Comm. CH 2-4468	5 Pro- Times, H. Trib, J. Am, WTS, Post
CHILDREN DARKNESS Circle $4.50	5 Sher Sq. OR 5-9437	6 Pro- 1 Con- News
CRUCIBLE Martinque $4.15	32 &Bway PE 6-3056	7 Pro- Unanimous raves revival Miller drama
HELOISE Gate $3.45	162-2nd OR 4-8796	5 Pro- Times, Trib, WTS, Post, J. Am 2 Con- Mirror, News
LULU 4th St $4.45	83 E 4 OR 4-5710	2 Pro- J. Am, WTS 5 Con-
PLAYBOY W. WORLD Tara $3.95	120 Mad. MU 6-4950	7 Pros- unanimous approval revival STage comedy
3 PENNY OPERA De Lys $4.85	121 Chris. WA 4-8782	3 Pro- Times, H Tribune, Post
ULYSSES NIGHTTOWN Rooftop $4.60	2nd & Hous. AL 4-5475	4 Pro- Times, H Trib, J. Am Post 3 Con- News, Mirror, WTS

" CD PROS & CONS "

PROS: Look Homeward Angel, Music Man, My Fair Lady, Sunrise Campobeelo Touch of Poet, Two See Saw, West Side Story, Visit

Anatol, Bald Soprano, Blood Wedding, Boy Friend, Children Darkness Crucible, Heloise, Playboy W. World, 3 Penny Opera

CONS: Lulu, Ulysses in Nighttown.

" THEATRE CALENDAR "

Ivanov- Renata- 10/7
Drink To Me Only- 54th St 10/8
Deathwatch- Theatre East 10/9
Capt. Brassbound's Conv.-St Paul 10/9
Goldilocks- Lunt 10/11

World Susie Wong- Broadhurst 10/14
Theatre National Populaire- Broadway 10/14
A Mid Nightmare- Palm Gardens 10/14
Girls in 509- Belasco 10/15
Look Back ANger- 41st St 10/17
Many Loves- Living Theatre 10/19
Family Reunion- Phoenix 10/20
Once More With Feeling-National 10/22
Make A Milion- Playhouse 10/23
Foenix in Choir- Rita Allen 10/24
Golden Six- York 10/25
Time of Cuckoo- Sheridan Sq 10/27
Hamlet of Stepney Green-Cricket 10/27
Listen to Quiet- Blackfriars 10/27
Patate- Miller 10/28
Marriage Go Round -Plymouth 10/29
Man in Dog Suit- Coronet 10/30
Ideal Husbands- 10/30
Quare Fellow- Circle 10/?

Epitaph George Dillon-Golden 11/4
Diversions- Downtown 11/5
Comes A Day- Ambassador 11/6
Crazy October- Alvin 11/8
Golem- Orpheum 11/10
Salad Days- Barbizon 11/11
La Plume De Ma Tante-Royale 11/11
Cock A Doodle Dandy-Carn. Play 11/12

Shadow of Gunman-Bijou 11/19
Man Who Never Died-Jan Hus 11/19
Triad- 11/20
Edwin Booth- 11/24
Cue for Passion- 11/25
Flower Drum Song- St James 11/27
King Lear- Shakespearewrights 11/?

Of Mice & Men- Provincetown 12/2
Gazebo- 46th St 12/3
Disenchanted- 12/3
Cold Wind & Warm-Morosco 12/4
Old Vic- Broadway 12/9
J. B. - ANTA 12/11
Far Away Train Birds Cry 12/17
Whoop Up- Shubert 12/18
Third Best Sport- 12/30
Temptation of M. Haggerty-Sheridan 12/

Rquiem for Nun- 1/2
Rashomon-Music Box 1/12
Man and Superman 1/20
Tall Story- 1/22
Ariadne & Concrete Duck 1/28
Darlin' Man- 1/29
Things to Remember-Broadway 1/?
Rivalry- Bijou 1/?

Redhead- 46th St 2/5
First Impressions- Alvin 2/15

This weekly NYC THEATRE NEWSLETTER DIGEST--now in its 10th year of service to "stage struck" theatre fans, producers, drama editors, investors, college libraries, etc--coast to coast--presents 52 weeks per year-----

- Complete theatre news of current week
- Reviews of current NYC shows by 7 critics
- Comments by NYC critics on legit books, discs, et
- Chart of critical & box-office reaction. Calendar
- Phone-write for details late reviews, etc.
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